Verſe is not the effect of ſudden thought; but this hinders not, that ſudden thought may be repreſented in verſe, ſince thoſe thoughts muſt be higher than nature can raiſe without *premeditation*. *Dryden on Dramatick Poetry.*

PRE'MICES. *n. ſ.* [*primitiæ*, Lat. *premices*, Fr.] Firſt fruits.

A charger, yearly filled with fruits, was offered to the gods at their feſtivals, as the *premices* or firſt gatherings. *Dry.*

PRE'MIER. adj. [French.] Firſt; chief.

The Spaniard challengeth the *premier* place, in regard of his dominions. *Camden's Remains.*

Thus families like realms, with equal fate,
Are ſunk by *premier* miniſters of ſtate. *Swift.*

To PREMI'SE. *v. a.* [*præmiſſus*, Lat.]

1. To explain previouſly; to lay down premiſes.

The apoſtle's diſcourſe here is an anſwer upon a ground taken; he *premiſeth*, and then infers. *Burnet.*

I *premiſe* theſe particulars, that the reader may know I enter upon it as a very ungrateful taſk. *Addiſon.*

2. To ſend before the time. Not in uſe.

O let the vile world end,
And the *premiſed* flames of the laſt day
Knit earth and heav'n together! *Shakeſp. Henry* VI.

To PREME'RIT. *v. a.* [*præmereor*, Lat.] To deſerve before.

They did not forgive Sir John Hotham, who had ſo much *premerited* of them. *King Charles.*

PRE'MISES. *n. ſ.* [*præmiſſa*, Lat. *premiſſes*, Fr.]

1. Propoſitions antecedently ſuppoſed or proved.

They infer upon the *premiſes*, that as great difference as commodiouſly may be, there ſhould be in all outward ceremonies between the people of God, and them which are not his people. *Hooker, b. iv. ſ. 7.*

This is ſo regular an inference, that whilſt the *premiſes* ſtand firm, it is impoſſible to ſhake the concluſion. *Decay of Piety.*

She ſtudy'd well the point, and found
Her foes concluſions were not ſound,
From *premiſes* erroneous brought,
And therefore the deduction's nought. *Swift's Miſcel.*

2. In low language, houſes or lands,: as, *I was upon the* premiſes.

PRE'MISS. *n. ſ.* [*præmiſſum*, Lat.] Antecedent propoſition.

This word is rare in the ſingular.

They know the major or minor, which is implied, when you pronounce the other *premiſs* and the concluſion. *Watts.*

PRE'MIUM. *n. ſ.* [*præmium*, Lat.] Something given to invite a loan or a bargain.

No body cares to make loans upon a new project; whereas men never fail to bring in their money upon a land-tax, when the *premium* or intereſt allowed them is ſuited to the hazard they run. *Addiſon's Freeholder*, N° 23.

People were tempted to lend, by great *premiums* and large intereſt; and it concerned them to preſerve that government, which they had truſted with their money. *Swift's Miſcel.*

To PREMO'NISH. *v. a.* [*præmoneo*, Lat.] To warn or admoniſh beforehand.

PREMO'NISHMENT. *n. ſ.* [from *premoniſh.*] Previous information.

After theſe *premoniſhments*, I will come to the compartition itſelf. *Wotton's Architecture.*

PREMONI'TION. *n. ſ.* [from *premoniſh.*] Previous notice; previous intelligence.

What friendly *premonitions* have been ſpent
On your forbearance, and their vain event. *Chapman.*

How great the force of ſuch an erroneous perſuaſion is, we may collect from our Saviour's *premonition* to his diſciples, when he tells them, that thoſe who killed them ſhould think they did God ſervice. *Decay of Piety.*

PREMO'NITORY. *n. ſ.* [from *præ* and *moneo*, Lat.] Previouſly adviſing.

To PREMO'NSTRATE. *v. a.* [*præ* and *monſtro*, Lat.] To ſhow beforehand.

PREMUNI'RE. n. ſ. [Latin.]

1. A writ in the common law, whereby a penalty is incurrable, as infringing ſome ſtatute.

Premunire is now grown a good word in our Engliſh laws, by tract of time; and yet at firſt it was merely miſtaken for a premonere. *Bramhall againſt Hobbs.*

Wooſley incurred a *premunire*, forfeited his honour, eſtate and life, which he ended in great calamity. *South.*

2. The penalty ſo incurred.

3. A difficulty; a diſtreſs. A low ungrammatical word.

PREMU'NITION. *n. ſ.* [from *præmunio*, Lat.] An anticipation of objection.

To PRENO'MINATE. *v. a.* [*prænomino*, Lat.] To forename.

He you would ſound,
Having ever ſeen, in the *prenominate* crimes,
The youth, you breathe of, guilty. *Shakeſp. Hamlet.*

PRENOMINA'TION. *n. ſ.* [*præ* and *nomino*, Lat.] The privilege of being named firſt.

The watry productions ſhould have the *prenomination*; and they of the land rather derive their names, than nominate thoſe of the ſea. *Brown's Vulgar Errours.*

PRENO'TION. *n. ſ.* [*prenotion*, Fr. *præ* and *noſco*, Lat.] Foreknowledge; preſcience.

The hedgehog's preſenſion of winds is ſo exact, that it ſtoppeth the north or ſouthern hole of its neſt, according unto *prenotion* of theſe winds enſuing. *Brown.*

PRE'NTICE. *n. ſ.* [contracted, by colloquial licence, from *apprentice.*] One bound to a maſter, in order to inſtruction in a trade.

My accuſer is my *prentice*, and when I did correct him for his fault, he did vow upon his knees he would be even with me. *Shakeſp. Henry* VI.

PRENTICESHIP. *n. ſ.* [from *prentice.*] The ſervitude of an apprentice.

He ſerv'd a *prenticeſhip*, who ſets up ſhop,
Ward try'd on puppies, and the poor his drop. *Pope.*

PRENU'NCIATION. *n. ſ.* [*prænuncio*, Lat.] The act of telling before. *Diet.*

PREO'CCUPANCY. *n. ſ.* [from *preoccupate.*] The act of taking poſſeſſion before another.

To PREO'CCUPATE. *v. a.* [*preoccuper*, Fr. *præoccupo*, Lat.]

1. To anticipate.

Honour aſpireth to death; grief flieth to it; and fear *preoccupieth* it. *Bacon.*

2. To prepoſſeſs; to fill with prejudices.

That the model be plain without colours, leſt the eye *preoccupate* the judgment. *Wotton's Architecture.*

PREOCCUPA'TION. *n. ſ.* [*preoccupation*, Fr. from *preoccupate.*]

1. Anticipation.

2. Prepoſſeſſion.

3. Anticipation of objection.

As if, by way of *preoccupation*, he ſhould have ſaid; well, here you ſee your commiſſion, this is your duty, theſe are your diſcouragements; never ſeek for evaſions from worldly afflictions; this is your reward, if you perform it; this is your doom, if you decline it. *South's Sermons.*

To PREO'CCUPY. *v. a.* To prepoſſeſs; to occupy by anticipation or prejudices.

I think it more reſpectful to the reader to leave ſomething to reflections, than *preoccupy* his judgment. *Arbuthnot.*

To PRE'OMINATE. *v. a.* [*præ* and *ominor*, Lat.] To prognoſticate; to gather from omens any future event.

Becauſe many ravens were ſeen when Alexander entered Babylon, they were thought to *preominate* his death. *Brown.*

PRE'OPINION. *n. ſ.* [*præ* and *opinio*, Lat.] Opinion antecedently formed; prepoſſeſſion.

Diet holds no ſolid rule of ſelection; ſome, in indiſtinct voracity, eating almoſt any; others, out of a timorous *preopinion*, refraining from very many things. *Brown.*

To PRE'ORDAIN. *v. a.* [*præ* and *ordain.*] To ordain beforehand.

Sin is the contrariety to the will of God, and if all things be *preordained* by God, and ſo demonſtrated to be willed by him, it remains there is no ſuch thing as ſin. *Hammond.*

Few ſouls *preordain'd* by fate,
The race of gods have reach'd that envy'd ſtate. *Reſcom.*

PREO'RDINANCE. *n. ſ.* [*præ* and *ordinance.*] Antecedent decree; firſt decree. Not in uſe.

Theſe lowly courteſies
Might ſtir the blood of ordinary men,
And turn *preordinance* and firſt decree
Into the law of children. *Shakeſp. Julius Cæſar.*

PREORDINA'TION. *n. ſ.* [from *preordain.*] The act of preordaining.

PREPARA'TION. *n. ſ.* [*preparatio*, Lat. *preparation*, Fr. from *prepare.*]

1. The act of preparing or previouſly fitting any thing to any purpoſe.

Nothing hath proved more fatal to that due *preparation* for another life, than our unhappy miſtake of the nature and end of this. *Wake's Preparation for Death.*

2. Previous meaſures.

I will ſhew what *preparations* there were in nature for this great diſſolution, and after what manner it came to paſs. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

3. Ceremonious introduction.

I make bold to preſs, with ſo little *preparation*, upon you.
—You're welcome. *Shakeſp. Merry Wives of Windſor.*

4. The act of making or fitting by a regular proceſs.

In the *preparations* of cookery, the moſt volatile parts of vegetables are deſtroyed. *Arbuthnot on Aliments.*

5. Any thing made by proceſs of operation.

I wiſh the chymiſts had been more ſparing, who magnify their *preparations*, inveigle the curioſity of many, and delude the ſecurity of moſt. *Breton's Vulgar Errours.*

6. Accompliſhment; qualification. Out of uſe.

Sir John, you are a gentleman of excellent breeding, authentick in your place and perſon, generally allowed for your many warlike, courtlike and learned *preparations*. *Shakeſp.*

PREPA'RATIVE. *adj.* [*preparatif*, Fr. from *prepare.*] The power of preparing or qualifying.

Would men have ſpent toiſome days and watchful nights in the laborious queſt of knowledge *preparative* to this work. *South's Sermons.*

PREPA'RATIVE. *n. ſ.* [*preparatif*, Fr. from *prepare.*]

1. That which has the power of preparing or previouſly fitting.

They tell us the profit of reading is ſingular, in that it ſerveth for a *preparative* unto ſermons. *Hooker.*

My book of advancement of learning may be ſome *preparative* or key for the better opening of the inſtauration. *Bacon.*

Reſolvedneſs in ſin can, with no reaſon, be imagined a *preparative* to remiſſion. *Decay of Piety.*

2. That which is done in order to ſomething elſe.

The miſeries, which have enſued, may be yet, through thy mercy, *preparatives* to us of future bleſſings. *K. Charles.*

Such a temper is a contradiction to repentance, as being founded in the deſtruction of thoſe qualities, which are the only diſpoſitions and *preparatives* to it. *South's Sermons.*

What avails it to make all the neceſſary *preparatives* for our voyage, if we do not actually begin the journey. *Dryden.*

PREPARATIVELY. *adv.* [from *preparative.*] Previouſly; by way of preparation.

It is *preparatively* neceſſary to many uſeful things in this life, as to make a man a good phyſician. *Hale.*

PREPA'RATORY. *adj.* [*preparatoire*, Fr.]

1. Antecedently neceſſary.

The practice of all theſe is proper to our condition in this world, and *preparatory* to our happineſs in the next. *Tillotſon.*

2. Introductory; previous; antecedent.

Preparatory, limited and formal interrogatories in writing preclude this way of occaſional interrogatories. *Hale.*

Rains were but *preparatory*, the violence of the deluge depended upon the diſruption of the great abyſs. *Burnet.*

To PREPA'RE. *v. a.* [*præparo*, Lat. *preparer*, Fr.]

1. To fit for any thing; to adjuſt to any uſe; to make ready for any purpoſe.

Patient Octavia, plough thy viſage up
With her *prepared* nails. *Shakeſp. Ant. and Cleop.*

Confound the peace eſtabliſh'd, and *prepare*
Their ſouls to hatred, and their hands to war. *Dryden.*

Our ſouls, not yet *prepar'd* for upper light,
Till doomſday wander in the ſhades of night. *Dryden.*

The beams of light had been in vain diſplay'd,
Had not the eye been fit for viſion made;
In vain the author had the eye *prepar'd*
With ſo much ſkill, had not the light appear'd. *Blackmore.*

2. To qualify for any purpoſe.

Some preachers, being *prepared* only upon two or three points of doctrine, run the ſame round. *Addiſon.*

3. To make ready beforehand.

There he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may *prepare* a city for habitation. *Pſalm* cviii. 36.

Now *prepare* thee for another ſight. *Milton.*

He took the golden compaſſes, *prepar'd*
In God's eternal ſtore, to circumſcribe
This univerſe. *Milton.*

4. To form; to make.

The woman fled into the wilderneſs, where ſhe hath a place *prepared* of God to feed her. *Rev.* xii. 6.

He hath founded it upon the ſeas, and *prepared* it upon the floods. *Pſalm* xxiv. 2.

5. To make by regular proceſs: as, *he* prepared *a medicine.*

To PREPARE. *v. n.*

1. To take previous meaſures.

Efficacy is a power of ſpeech, which repreſents to our minds the lively ideas of things ſo truly, as if we ſaw them with our eyes; as Dido *preparing* to kill herſelf. *Peacham.*

2. To make every thing ready; to put things in order.

Go in, ſirrah, bid them *prepare* for dinner. *Shakeſp.*

The long-ſuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a *preparing*. 1 *Peter* iii. 2.

3. To make one's ſelf ready; to put himſelf in a ſtate of expectation.

PREPA'RE. *n. ſ.* [from the verb.] Preparation; previous meaſures. Not in uſe.

In our behalf
Go levy men, and make *prepare* for war. *Shakeſp.*

PREPA'REDLY. *adv.* [from *prepared.*] By proper precedent meaſures.

She *preparedly* may frame herſelf
To th' way ſhe's forc'd to. *Shakeſp. Ant. and Cleop.*

PREPA'REDNESS. *n. ſ.* [from *prepare.*] State or act of being prepared: as, *he's in a* preparedneſs *for his final exit.*

PREPA'RER. *n. ſ.* [from *prepare.*]

1. One that prepares; one that previouſly fits.

The biſhop of Ely, the fitteſt *preparer* of her mind to receive ſuch a doleful accident, came to viſit her. *Wotton.*

2. That which fits for any thing.

Codded grains are an improver of land, and *preparer* of it for other crops. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

PREPE'NSE. } *adj.* [*prepenſus*, Lat.] Forethought; precon-
PREPE'NSED. } ceived; contrived beforehand: as, *malice* prepenſe.

To PREPO'NDER. *v. a.* [from *preponderate.*] To outweigh.

Though pillars by channelling be ſeemingly ingroſſed to our ſight, yet they are truly weakned; and therefore ought not to be the more ſlender, but the more corpulent, unleſs apparences *preponder* truths. *Wotton's Architecture.*

PREPO'NDERANCE. } *n. ſ.* [from *preponderate.*] The ſtate of
PREPO'NDERANCY. } outweighing; ſuperiority of weight.

As to addition of ponderoſity in dead bodies, comparing them unto blocks, this occaſional *preponderancy* is rather an appearance than reality. *Brown's Vulgar Errours.*

The mind ſhould examine all the grounds of probability, and, upon a due balancing the whole, reject or receive proportionably to the *preponderancy* of the greater grounds of probability. *Locke.*

Little light boats were the ſhips which people uſed, to the ſides whereof this fiſh remora faſtening, might make it ſwag, as the leaſt *preponderance* on either ſide will do, and ſo retard its courſe. *Grew's Muſæum.*

To PREPO'NDERATE. *v. a.* [*præpondero*, Lat.]

1. To outweigh; to overpower by weight.

An inconſiderable weight, by diſtance from the centre of the balance, will *preponderate* greater magnitudes. *Glanvill.*

The trivialleſt thing, when a paſſion is caſt into the ſcale with it, *preponderates* ſubſtantial bleſſings. *Gov. of the Tongue.*

2. To overpower by ſtronger influence.

To PREPO'NDERATE. *v. n.*

1. To exceed in weight.

He that would make the lighter ſcale *preponderate*, will not ſo ſoon do it, by adding increaſe of new weight to the emptier, as if he took out of the heavier, what he adds to the lighter. *Locke.*

Unleſs the very mathematical center of gravity of every ſyſtem be placed and fixed in the very mathematical center of the attractive power of all the reſt, they cannot be evenly attracted on all ſides, but muſt *preponderate* ſome way or other. *Bentley's Sermons.*

2. To exceed in influence or power analogous to weight.

In matters of probability, we cannot be ſure that we have all particulars before us, and that there is no evidence behind, which may outweigh all that at preſent ſeems to *preponderate* with us. *Locke.*

By putting every argument on one ſide and the other into the balance, we muſt form a judgment which ſide *preponderates.* *Watts.*

PREPONDERA'TION. *n. ſ.* [from *preponderate.*] The act or ſtate of outweighing any thing.

In matters, which require preſent practice, we muſt content ourſelves with a mere *preponderation* of probable reaſons. *Watts's Logick.*

To PREPO'SE. *v. a.* [*propoſer*, Fr. *præpono*, Lat.] To put before. *Diet.*

PREPOSI'TION. *n. ſ.* [*præpoſition*, Fr. *præpoſitio*, Lat.] In grammar, a particle governing a caſe.

A *prepoſition* ſignifies ſome relation, which the thing ſignified by the word following it, has to ſomething going before in the diſcourſe; as, Cæſar came *to* Rome. *Clarke's Lat. Gram.*

PREPO'SITOR. *n. ſ.* [*præpoſitor*, Lat.] A ſcholar appointed by the maſter to overlook the reſt.

To PREPOSSE'SS. *v. a.* [*præ* and *poſſeſs.*] To fill with an opinion unexamined; to prejudice.

She was *prepoſſeſſed* with the ſcandal of ſalivating. *Wiſem.*

PREPOSSE'SSION. *n. ſ.* [from *prepoſſeſs.*]

1. Preoccupation; firſt poſſeſſion.

God hath taken care to anticipate and prevent every man to give piety the *prepoſſeſſion*, before other competitors ſhould be able to pretend to him; and ſo to engage him in holineſs firſt and then in bliſs. *Hammond's Fundamentals.*

2. Prejudice; preconceived opinion.

Had the poor vulgar rout only, who were held under the prejudices and *prepoſſeſſions* of education, been abuſed into ſuch idolatrous ſuperſtitions, it might have been pitied, but not ſo much wondred at. *South's Sermons.*

With thought, from *prepoſſeſſion* free, reflect
On ſolar rays, as they the ſight reſpect. *Blackmore.*

PREPO'STEROUS. *adj.* [*præpoſterus*, Lat.]

1. Having that firſt which ought to be laſt; wrong; abſurd; perverted.

Put a caſe of a land of Amazons, where the whole government, publick and private, is in the hands of women: is not ſuch a *prepoſterous* government againſt the firſt order of nature, for women to rule over men, and in itſelf void? *Bac.*

Death from a father's hand, from whom I firſt
Receiv'd a being! 'tis a *prepoſterous* gift,
An act at which inverted nature ſtarts,
And bluſhes to behold herſelf ſo cruel. *Denham.*

Such is the world's *prepoſterous* fate;
Amongſt all creatures, mortal hate
Love, though immortal, doth create. *Denham.*

By this diſtribution of matter, continual proviſion is every where made for the ſupply of bodies, quite contrary to the *prepoſterous* reaſonings of thoſe men, who expected ſo different a reſult. *Woodward's Nat Hiſt.*

The method I take may be cenſured as *prepoſterous*, becauſe I thus treat laſt of the antediluvian earth, which was firſt in order of nature. *Woodward's Nat. Hiſt.*

2. Applied to perſons: fooliſh; abſurd.

Prepoſterous aſs! that never read ſo far
To know the cauſe why muſick was ordain'd. *Shakeſp.*